

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 6/09/00

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-29)

TO: John Baugher - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: John Day Watershed Restoration

Project No: 9801800

Budget No: F5018

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.2 Water Measuring Devices; 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: The mainstem John Day River, South Fork John Day River, Indian Creek, Beech Creek, and Cottonwood Creek in the John Day River Basin, Grant County, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO).

Description of the Proposed Action: The goal of this project is to improve fish passage, water quality, and water quantity in the John Day River Basin. The proposed actions include: (1) Installation of return flow cooling systems at two locations along the mainstem of the John Day River; (2) Installation of pumping stations to eliminate the need for annual construction of “push-up” dams at three locations on the John Day River and one location on the South Fork John Day River; (3) Installation of pipeline water conveyance systems at one location on the John Day River and one location on Beech Creek; and, (4) Installation of irrigation conversion systems at one location on the John Day River and one location on the South Fork John Day River. The “push-up” dam removals and installation of pipeline water conveyance systems would involve in-water work in the John Day River, South Fork John Day River, Beech Creek, Indian Creek, and Cottonwood Creek.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the CTWSRO and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project area are Middle Columbia River steelhead and bull trout. The proposed actions are also within designated critical habitat for Middle Columbia River steelhead. Biological assessments were submitted by the CTWSRO to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). For USFWS listed species, a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” was concluded for bull trout populations. The USFWS concurred on May 23, 2000, with the CTWSRO’s findings. For NMFS listed species, a determination of “may affect, but not likely to

adversely affect” was concluded for the Middle Columbia River steelhead or their designated critical habitat. NMFS concurred with the CTWSRO’s findings on May 30, 2000. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

Heritage Research Associates, Inc conducted a complete archaeological survey of all sites on May 22, 2000. No prehistoric or historic archaeological sites or historic buildings were identified from a literature review or from the extensive ground survey. No additional investigations were recommended. The archaeological survey has been provided to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) by the CTWSRO. Contingent upon concurrence by the SHPO, these proposed actions will meet the requirements of NEPA.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6 A, A1, A2, 7.6B, B1-B6, 7.6C, 7.6D, 7.7 & 7.7A, of the Northwest Power Planning Council’s Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

s/s Tish K. Levesque
Tish K. Levesque
Environmental Project Lead - KECN

CONCUR: s/s Robert W. Beraud
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6/12/00

3 Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
NMFS Concurrence Letter
USFWS Concurrence Letter